Friend's Hand
Block of the Month - February 2017
12 ½” unfinished

Monica Linden, Blue Earth Block Swapper, made this "Water Wheel" block for the MQ 2016 raffle quilt. After some research, I found many more names for this traditional block: Friendship Star variation; Chinese Coin, Indian Puzzle, Indiana Puzzle, Crosses and Losses, Monkey Wrench, Pinwheel, Milky Way, and, my favorite, Friend's Hand, which we'll call it this month when we honor friends and lovers!! We've made the block a bit bigger than the one in the raffle quilt. We'll publish those cutting directions on-line for those of you making a replica of the raffle quilt. – Kathie Simon Frank

Fabric and Cutting requirements: (These are a little generous for those of us – like Jeanne – who are not super-fantastic at a "scant" ¼" seam. You will trim excess.)

Dark Pink:
- A (1) 3 ½" x 3 ½"
- B (2) 4” x 4” (for HSTs)
- C (1) 2” x 9"

Medium Pink:
- D (1) 2” x 9"
- E (2) 1 ½” x 9 ½"
- F (2) 1 ½” x 11”

White on white or Pale Pink:
- G (2) 4” x 4” (for HSTs)
- H (2) 2” x 9”
- I (2) 1 ½” x 11”
- J (2) 1 ½” x 12 ½”

Sewing Directions:
1. Make the Half-Square Triangles (HSTs) by putting one B and one G right sides together (RST). Draw a diagonal line and stitch ¼” seam on each side of it. Cut on the line. Press each toward the dark pink. Repeat with the other B+G. **Trim to 3 ½” square.**
2. Sew D+H and C+H. Press toward the darker fabrics. Cut each double-strip into four 3 ½” x 2 1/8” rectangles. Sew the pieces together to match the diagram and photo. (Four four-squares) **Trim to 3 ½” square.**
3. Sew the nine middle blocks together, using the diagram and/or photo for orientation of pieces. **Trim your block to 9 ½”.**
4. Add E pieces to the top and bottom, then F pieces to the sides. Press and trim the block to 11”.
5. Add I pieces to the top and bottom, then J pieces to the sides. Press and trim the block to 12 ½”.

BOM GUIDELINES: Each person may enter up to three blocks each month. Please include your name on your block(s). Make it simple: stick your mailing label on the back of each block. If you have any scraps left over, consider including them with your block (pinned to the block or in an attached baggie) for the winner to use in a border or for other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the October 6th and 8th meetings, you may mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive before the drawings. Address: Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc, 253 State Street, St. Paul MN 55107. We'll have a drawing at both the Thursday night and Saturday meeting if we have enough blocks. If we get only a few on Thursday night, we'll do one drawing on Saturday. You need not be present to win. We'll call to notify winners. Blocks can be mailed to the winner or picked up at the MQ office or at the next meeting.